Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-30 (cancel)

Claim 31 (new):   A method comprising:

determining a system state indicative of whether a system is connected to a network; and

loading either a first module of a basic input/output system or a second module of the basic input/output system based on the system state.

Claim 32 (new):   The method of claim 31, further comprising:

storing said first module of the basic input/output system on a first storage device prior to execution;

storing said second module of the basic input/output system on a second storage device prior to execution; and

enabling said second module to be executed conditionally depending on the system state.

Claim 33 (new):   The method of claim 32, wherein storing said second module includes storing said second module in a storage associated with a network server accessible to said system over the network.

Claim 34 (new):   The method of claim 31, including detecting whether or not the system is connected to the network during a boot sequence.

Claim 35 (new):   The method of claim 31, including dynamically linking to one of a plurality of modules, and exporting an offset to an entry point in one module to another module.

Claim 36 (new):   The method of claim 35, including storing a secondary entry point in a module to locate a function within the module.

Claim 37 (new):   The method of claim 36, including developing a segment address for said second module at run time.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 31, further comprising providing different levels of authentication based upon the system state.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 31, further comprising authenticating a user according to one of multiple levels based upon the system state, and obtaining a key from a protected storage if the user is authenticated.

Claim 40 (new): An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a system to:

determine a system state indicative of whether the system is connected to a network; and

load either a first module of a basic input/output system or a second module of the basic input/output system based on the system state.

Claim 41 (new): The article of claim 40, further storing instructions that cause a system to:

access said first module of the basic input/output system on a first storage device;

access said second module of the basic input/output system on a second storage device; and

execute said second module conditionally depending on the system state.

Claim 42 (new): The article of claim 41, further storing instructions that cause a system to access said second module in a storage associated with a network server accessible to said system over the network.

Claim 43 (new): The article of claim 41, further storing instructions that cause a system to execute said second module conditionally depending on whether or not the system is coupled to the network.

Claim 44 (new): The article of claim 41, further storing instructions that cause a system to selectively access either a first module setting forth a first authentication protocol in the first storage device or a second module setting forth a second authentication protocol in the second storage device based on the system state.

Claim 45 (new): The article of claim 40, further storing instructions that cause a system to obtain a key from a protected storage if a user is authenticated.

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Claim 46 (new): The article of claim 40, further storing instructions that cause a system to dynamically link said first and second modules.

Claim 47 (new): The article of claim 40, further storing instructions that cause a system to detect whether the system is connected to the network during a boot sequence.

Claim 48 (new): The article of claim 41, further storing instructions that cause a system to dynamically link to one of a plurality of modules using offsets to entry points in said modules.

Claim 49 (new): The article of claim 48, further storing instructions that cause a system to store a secondary entry point in a module to locate a function within the module.

Claim 50 (new): The article of claim 49, further storing instructions that cause a system to develop a segment address for said second module at run time.

Claim 51 (new): A system comprising:

a first basic input/output system module executable by a processor; and

a second basic input/output system module executable by said processor; and

the processor to load either said first basic input/output system module or said second basic input/output system module based on a system state that indicates a connection to a network.

Claim 52 (new): The system of claim 51, including a detector to detect the system state to determine whether said processor is to execute said second module.

Claim 53 (new): The system of claim 52, including a first storage for said first module and a second storage for said second module, said second storage being coupled to said system over the network.

Claim 54 (new): The system of claim 52, wherein said detector to detect information about network access.

Claim 55 (new): The system of claim 51, wherein said first and second modules include different authentication protocols.

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Claim 56 (new): The system of claim 53, wherein said processor to execute said second basic input/output system module on said second storage to implement a network authentication protocol.